Setting up of Hoverport for Indian Coast Guard

4168. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hoverport for Indian Coast Guard is being set up to prevent poaching and smuggling;

(b) if so, the locations thereof; and

(c) whether civilians would be allowed to use the port for their Hovercraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) yes, Sir. One Hoverport is fully functional at Haldia, whereas the construction of two more Hoverports at Mandapam and Jakhau are in the planning stage.

(c) No, Sir.

Revision of pay scales of Subedar-Major and Havildar

†4169. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level committee had been constituted after the Fifth Pay Commission with regard to revision of pay scale of soldiers and officers of Indian Army, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the pay scale of all categories had been revised except Subedar-Major and Havildar, if so, by when Government propose to revise their pay scales; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission (CPC) had made various recommendations for improving the service conditions, including pay and allowances of the Armed Forces Personnel. A High Level Committee (HLC) with Defence Secretary as Chairman, vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Chief of Air Staff, Vice Chief of Army Staff and Financial Adviser (Defence Services) as Members was, however, constituted in December, 1997 specifically to consider the anomalies in the pay and allowances of Armed Forces Personnel, arising out of the implementation of the V CPC recommendations. The recommendations of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

this Committee were, further, examined by a Group of senior officers, headed by Cabinet Secretary. While orders on most of their recommendations, relating to pay and allowances, have been issued by the Government, there are two issues, *i.e.* pay scales of the Personnel Below Officers' Rank and of Lt. General/equivalent, which are being looked into by a Group of Ministers in view of their wider implications. Based upon the recommendations of the Group of Ministers, the Government has implemented 14 pay scales on 3rd October, 2000, removing certain anomalies in the pay scales of Personnel Below Officer Rank of Navy and Air Force, arising out of trade rationalisation in the Army. Similarly, one more pay scale has been implemented on 10th November, 2000 for those Sergeants of 'X' Group of Air Force, who qualify a technical examination at par with diploma in engineering to be designed and conducted by the Air Headquarters.

The issue relating to the remaining 19 pay scales of Personnel Below Officer Rank recommended by HLC including pay scales of Subedar Major and Havildar is still under consideration of the Group of Ministers.

Fire in ordnance depots

4170. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Ordnance depots situated in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of the fire accidents that took place in ammunition and explosion depots in the country during the last five year's year-wise and depot-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such accidents and steps taken to curb recurring such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (c) : The details of major Ordnance depots situated in various parts of the country are as under :—

(i)	Central Ordnance Depots	7
(ii)	Central Ammunition Depot	1
(iii)	Central Armoured Fighting Vehicle Depot	1
(iv)	Central Vehicle Depot	1
(V)	Regional Ordnance Depots	13
(vi)	Regional Ammunition Depots	14
(vii)	Vehicle Depots/Company	3